

Testimony of

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I would like to comment on the elimination of the EdTPA standardized portfolio system for aspiring educators. This is my first year being a mentor teacher for this program. Being a 24-year veteran teacher with the Stamford Public Schools, I do see a need for teachers of color in our system. This is the reason that I applied to be a mentor for this program. After being hired and basically matching myself with my mentee at our first meeting together last June, our connection was set. My mentee has Aspergers and I grew to understand her disabilities. This is especially since my oldest child, who is 22 years old, is on the spectrum and a math savant. My mentee is absolutely wonderful with our 5th graders. She actually has a better handle on discipline than I do and they are more nervous about her comments at report card conferences than they are about mine. The edTPA part of this program is completely getting in the way of a great program. Instead of our residents concentrating on teaching and lesson planning, they are stressed out about a project that has no effect on how they are actually teaching in the classroom. A more effective way would be to double up the amount of observations (instead of 1x per month..it would be 2x per month).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

